History Heroes: Making a Difference

Learning objective: To identify and describe the significant contributions of key figures in Black history and understand how their actions shaped the world today.

Ellie the elephant has been reading her history books! Use the word bank to match the historical figure to their incredible achievement. Then, think deeply about how their bravery helps us today.

Word bank: Rosa Parks · Mary Seacole · Walter Tull · Windrush Generation

1. Which person travelled to the Crimean War to provide food and medicine to wounded soldiers, opening a 'British Hotel'? (2 marks)

2. Who refused to give up their seat on a bus in America, sparking a movement for fairness and equality? (2 marks)

3. Explain why it was a brave decision for Walter Tull to become a professional footballer and a soldier at a time when there was little equality. Why does his story still matter to us now? (4 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the contributions of the Windrush Generation who arrived in the UK to help rebuild the country with the work of someone like Mary Seacole. How did both groups change Britain? (4 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If you could add one more person to a 'History Heroes' statue, who would it be and why? What quality makes them a hero? (4 marks)

6. What might happen if these historical figures had chosen not to speak up or help others? Describe the world we might live in. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a portrait of your own 'History Hero' and surround them with symbols that represent their achievements (for example, a medical cross for Mary Seacole or a bus for Rosa Parks).

Extension challenge: Research a person from Black history who is a scientist or an inventor. Write a short poem in the style of Leo the Lion about how their discovery changed our daily lives.